

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

All of the claims have been amended to further recite that the fastening bolt has a length such that an upper end of the bolt protrudes from the first casing half or segment when the fastening bolt is screwed into the bolt hole in the second casing half or segment. Therefore, the bolt may be coaxially arranged with the sleeve in such a manner that it may be directly screwed into the casing from outside of the casing.

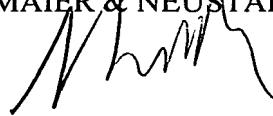
Claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 were newly rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over German '068 in view of prior art Figure 8. However it is respectfully submitted that the amended claims define over this prior art.

According to the Office Action, it would have been obvious in view of Fig. 8 to have provided a tangential casing in German '068. However, even if this were indeed obvious, there would be no teaching in the prior art that the bolt 16 of German '068 should protrude from the tangential casing. Instead, German '068 teaches the opposite: that the bolt 16 is rotated by a worm gear 22 through a screw section 24, so that the bolt need not extend externally of the casing. Accordingly, the amended claims define over this prior art.

Applicants therefore believe that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully solicit an early Notice of Allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

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